MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH THE [illegible] CHURCH, [illegible] COUNTY, [illegible],

COMMENCING ON THE [illegible] DAY OF [illegible], 1883.

[illegible]

CARROLLTON:
[illegible]
1883.

MINUTES

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

The Forty-eighth Annual Session of the UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION was held with Grant's Creek Church, Tuskaloosa county, Ala., commencing Tuesday, September 18th, 1883. At 11 o'clock the Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder J. A. Mitchell, from John 17: 15, "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil."

The Moderator, Elder J. C. Foster, read the 103d Psalm, and the session was opened with prayer by Elder J. H. Curry.

Brethren W. G. Robertson and R. H. Foster were requested to read the letters from the churches, and the names of delegates were enrolled, as follows:

FIRST DISTRICT.

Bethlehem—J. W. Eddins, F. E. Vinzant, R. H. Bradley.*
Liberty—J. J. Lee, T. W. Arendale,* J. W. Harris.*
Mt. Pleasant—H. Strickland, J. Hall,* W. B. Hicks.*
Fellowship—J. B. Hodo,* H. Shepherd,* S. A. Comerford.*
Corinth—Elder J. A. Mitchell, E. S. Moss, James Mills.*
Flat-Woods—Elder J. S. Shirley, J. M. Parker.
Spring Hill, Lamar County—J. T. Blalack, Wm. Goodman, S. T. Coleman.
Pleasant Grove—Not represented.

SECOND DISTRICT.

McBee Creek—Not represented.
Arbor Spring—Thomas Branch, J. M. Robertson.
South Carolina—Nathan Sentle.*
Mineral Spring—Elder G. M. Lyles,* L. C. Abrams, J. J. Funderburk.*
Oak Ridge—N. N. Davis, H. L. Williams,* S. T. Sparks.*
Spring Hill, Pickens County—Not represented.
Hebron—J. P. Gates,* H. A. Pearson,* J. A. Goree.*
Big Creek—Elder H. B. Chappelle, W. O. Kelsey, I. M. Noland.*
Cross Roads—J. F. Reteer, W. D. Allen,* G. W. Mullins.*

THIRD DISTRICT.

Pickensville—Elder J. H. Curry, Elder S. Hildreth, M. B. Curry
Carrollton—W. G. Robertson, W. V. Ezell,* R. S. Curry.*
Ebenezer—E. Easterling,* C. W. Free,* Z. U. Taylor.*

Antioch—J. Gazaway, H. Easterling,* W. Bridges.*
Temple Hill—H. J. Channel.
Unity—W. N. Goodson, Elder M. G. Lofton, G. H. Phillips.*
Mt. Zion—L. P. Baker, Thomas Locke, R. H. Hamilton.*
Enon—C. Richey, J. W. Atteberry, A. A. Ball.*
Prairie—R. D. Leavell,* C. Upchurch,* W. A. Williams.*

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Forest—I. Teer, Elder J. G. Thornton, J. L. Marquis.
Shiloh—C. C. Garner,* George Leavell, A. P. Smith.*
Chalcedony—Elder J. H. M. Anders, J. R. Strickland, W. C. Lancaster.*
Beulah—J. T. Smith, E. H. Lamb, S. S. Thornton.
Bethel—Elder J. L. Ray, J. A. Leavell, H. S. Thornton.*
New Hope—J. H. Robertson, J. M. Smith, J. P. Barnett.
Zion—J. H. Pate, W. G. Berry, J. M. Pate.*
Grant's Creek—Elder J. C. Foster, H. F. Hill, R. H. Foster.
Absentees marked with a star (*).

The Association was organized by the re-election of Elder J. C. Foster, Moderator, and H. B. Chappelle, Clerk.

On motion, invited correspondence from other bodies. A petitionary letter from Flat-Woods Baptist church, recently organized was presented which, on motion, was referred to a special committee, viz, J. H. Curry and W. G. Robertson for examination, to report as soon as practicable.

On motion, Elder D. I. Purser was received and recognized as the representative of the State Mission Board.

On motion, adjourned till 2 p. m. Prayer by Elder S. Hildreth.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.—The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder J. L. Ray.

Appointed following committees:

On Religious Exercises—J. P. Gates, J. M. Smith and pastor and deacons of Grant's Creek church.

On Correspondence—N. N. Davis, J. A. Mitchell.

Documents—J. J. Lee, J. L. Ray, J. A. Goree.

Nominations—W. G. Robertson, J. H. Pate, Jas. B. Hodo, J. W. Atteberry.

Finance—J. M. Smith, H. Strickland, H. F. Hill.

Deceased Ministers and Deacons—M. G. Lofton, C. Richey, J. T. Smith.

Temperance—S. Hildreth, W. O. Kelsey, M. B. Curry.

Publications—H. F. Hill, R. D. Leavell, J. W. Eddins.

Sabbath Schools—R. H. Foster, J. S. Shirley, G. A. Phillips.

Education—J. H. Curry, E. H. Lamb, J. L. Marquis.

Aged and Infirm Ministers—C. Richey, I. Teer, J. P. Barnett.

Apportionment of the Churches—W. G. Robertson, R. H. Foster. J. T. Smith.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Missions—W. G. Robertson, L. P. Baker, J. H. M. Anders.

Temperance—W. G. Robertson, J. J. Lee, W. V. Ezell.

Order of Business—H. B. Chappelle, C. Richey.

On motion, suspended order of business and received delegates of the Sunday School Convention, viz: S. Hildreth, W. G. Robertson, J. H. Curry.

Report of committee on Sabbath Schools was received, discussed and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

We rejoice to be able to record the fact that the Sabbath-school cause more earnestly engages the attention of the churches than at any time in its previous history. We find that the Sunday School Convention of this Association has recently closed the happiest and most prosperous year of its existence. There are 24 schools in operation within our bounds aggregating, teachers and pupils, about 850. The Convention is doing a missionary work that ought to commend it to every christian man and woman within our bounds and engage their hearty co-operation. Now, in view of the opportunity afforded every child of God to do good, in view of the good already accomplished and the untold results of future labor in this branch of church work we call upon our brethren and sisters, who have not already done so, to unite their hearts and hands in this high and holy calling; and we pray that all may feel a deeper sense of their obligation to God in this matter. Fraternally submitted,

W. G. ROBERTSON, Chm.

Suspended order of business and received letter and delegates from Forest church. And, on motion, received report of committee in regard to Flat-Woods church, adopted:

We report that we have made inquiry as to the Faith and Order of said church and find that they have adopted the Articles of Faith as practiced by the churches of this Association, and recommend that their petition be granted and that said church, at their request, be assigned to the First District.

J. H. CURRY, Chm.

Report of committee on Education was received and adopted:

Education, from its very nature, must be of a religious character or otherwise. We should discriminate between true and false education. We should not educate the head, and forget that it is necessary to educate the heart. We should learn at once the great secret of success and improve it, and prosecute with more earnestness and zeal the work of establishing and sustaining our denominational schools.

We have done but little in the work of ministerial education, the past year. We should not let our interest in this important work flag simply because we have no brother in the Howard or elsewhere. Our people are becoming intensely aroused on this important branch of education and are calling loudly for an educated ministry. Therefore, be it resolved, That we contribute liberally to the cause of Ministerial Education. J. H. CURRY, Chm.

Pending the adoption of the above report about $14 was raised for the Southern Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky. And also the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we endorse the action of our delegates to the State Convention in the matter of pledging our Association $50.00 for Ministerial Education; and that this amount be turned over to the Board of Education, to be used wholly or in part in securing the services of Dr. Teague as Professor of Theology in Howard College.

On motion, adjourned till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by Elder D. I. Purser.

WEDNESDAY MORNING 9 O'CLOCK.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Eld. J. G. Thornton.

On motion, suspended order of business and received letter and messengers from the Tuskaloosa Association, viz: Elders T. M. Barbour, J. M. Phillips, J. G. Lowery, and brethren H. H. Brown, L. R. Finnell, C. E. Rice, and M. B. Smith, all of whom were received and cordially invited to seats. On motion, brother H J Channel was received as delegate from Temple Hill church without letter.

Committee on Missions reported, and pending the adoption of the same, the report of the District Evangelist and also of the Executive Board were, on motion, called for and the whole subject ably discussed, amidst which a motion prevailed to repair to the arbor and request Eld. D. I. Purser to preach the Annual Missionary Sermon. After which, on motion, adjourned till 2 o'cl'k p. m.

2 O'CLOCK P. M.—The Association met. Prayer by Eld. J. L. Ray. Resumed the discussion of Missions, and pending its adoption the balance due the M. P. Smith Colportage Fund was raised in cash. The report on Missions was then adopted:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS.

During the last conventional year we have had forty-eight men in the service of the State Board. These men of God have preached the Gospel of Christ in the towns, villages and almost in every nook and corner of the State. New towns are building up on our railroads to which we should send missionaries. While much has been done, much remains yet to be done. The outlook for the Colportage work is very encouraging. Fifteen men have been engaged in this work and their labors comprise forty counties. The interest in the Sabbath School cause is largely on the increase. During the last year there have been nearly 100 schools organized. At present there are one more than 1,000 Baptist Sabbath-schools in the State. But little has been done in the way of evangelizing the colored people. We should enlarge our contributions, and increase our efforts in this department of Christian work. Our churches all over the State are awakening to greater earnestness and increased interest in the cause of Ministerial education. A commendable effort is being made to establish a Theological department in the Howard College. The Home Mission Board has 95 men laboring in different portions of the South and West, who are doing a great work for the Master. The untiring and sanctified efforts of this Board commend this field of labor to our most generous liberality.

Of the work in foreign lands we have much for which to "thank God and take courage." This Board has missionaries in Mexico, Africa, Brazil, Italy and

China. The number of men and women in these fields is 38, and the number of native assistants is 30, making 68. We urge that our brethren take the Foreign Mission Journal, and the Alabama Baptist so that they may be informed in regard to the work of the different Boards.

Resolved, That we pledge ourselves to use our utmost endeavor to raise $700.00, the amount called for by the State Board. J. H. CURRY, Chm.

The report of the District Evangelist, adopted:

To the Union Association—Dear Brethren: Under appointment of the State Board, I began work April 1st, 1883, and herewith submit report of my labors: I have preached 75 sermons, delivered 22 addresses, visited 30 churches, attended 1 Sunday-school Convention, 3 District Meetings, and 1 Association (colored), traveled 1344 miles, sold $20 worth of books. I have received from the churches $117.55. In view of the importance and necessity of the work, I recommend that we continue it, and in connection with the State Board.

Elder J. A. Mitchell, special colporteur, reports that he received from the State Board books amounting to $14.30 on account of the Matthew P. Smith Colportage Fund, and that he had sold to the sum of $11.30, leaving on hand books valued at $3.00. S. HILDRETH, District Evangelist.

Report of Executive Board read and adopted, as follows:

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Owing to the inadequate sum of money in our hands or under our control, we were unable to employ any one to engage in our evangelistic work before the 1st of last April. Bro. Hildreth, who was in the employ of the State Board last year, agreed to take the field at that time and devote himself to the work until the meeting of the Association; and upon our recommendation he was appointed by the State Board and entered at once upon the work. For the extent of his labors you are referred to his report.

We pray the Divine Spirit to direct the hearts and minds of his children in such a way that we may be able to employ some competent man for his entire time for this great work. Brethren, we ought to do greater things for the Master, inasmuch as He laid down his life for us, has given us his gospel, and made us the happy recipients of His grace and truth, we ought to consecrate our souls and bodies to his work and be satisfied with nothing less than the salvation of every soul within the reach of our influence. We appeal to the churches in the name of our Lord and Master and on behalf of the multitudes who are sending up the Macedonian cry within our bounds, to contribute liberally for the support of the work. We verily believe that the life and prosperity of our churches depend in a large measure upon the success of the mission work in our midst. We must not abate our energies and thereby let the work languish and die; but let us redouble our exertions and make greater sacrifices that we may see it abundantly prosperous and glorious in its results; and may God help us all to do our duty.

W. G. ROBERTSON, Sec'y. M. L. STANSEL, Chm.

We have collected and paid over as follows:

For State Missions	$25.15
For Home Missions	22.00
For Foreign Missions	17.35
For Ministerial Education	19.50
For Colportage	42.50
	$126.50

W. G. ROBERTSON, Treasurer

On motion, suspended order of business and received report of committee on Apportionment of the Churches; adopted:

Your committee on Apportionment for Mission Work, for all purposes, apportion to the Churches as follows:

Bethlehem	$ 10 00	Amount brought forward	$305 00
Liberty	15 00	Carrollton	60 00
Mt. Pleasant	20 00	Ebenezer	15 00
Fellowship	8 00	Antioch	7 00
Corinth	25 00	Temple Hill	5 00
Spring Hill, Lamar county	15 00	Unity	30 00
Pleasant Grove	15 00	Enon	40 00
McBee		Mt. Zion	15 00
Arbor Spring	12 00	Prairie	12 00
South Carolina	10 00	Forest	30 00
Mineral Spring	20 00	Shiloh	10 00
Oak Ridge	25 00	Chalcedony	10 00
Spring Hill, Pickens county	25 00	Beulah	40 00
Hebron	15 00	Bethel	25 00
Big Creek	30 00	New Hope	27 00
Cross Roads	10 00	Zion	5 00
Pickensville	50 00	Grant's Creek	60 00
	305 00	Flat Woods	5 00
Total			$701 00

Fraternally submitted,

W. G. ROBERTSON, Chairman.

Committee on Publications reported; adopted:—

Your committee on Publications recommend as our denominational literature, first of all, the Word; secondly, as our home organ, the *Alabama Baptist*, which we most earnestly recommend to the support and patronage of our brethren; thirdly, as our Sabbath School literature, we recommend the publications of the American Baptist Publication Society at Philadelphia, and *Kind Words*, and the *Child's Gem*, published at Macon, Ga.; and fourthly, the *Foreign Mission Journal*, published at Richmond, Virginia.

H. F. HILL, Chm.

Committee on Correspondence reported, adopted.

Report on District Meetings were read and adopted, viz:

FIRST DISTRICT—The next annual meeting of this District will be held with Bethlehem Church, Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in July, 1884. Introductory sermon by Elder J. A. Mitchell; Missionary sermon by Elder D. O. Baird. Queries for discussion: 1. Does a member of the church discharge his duty who fails to support his Pastor and the missionary cause? 2. Does a member of the church discharge his duty who neglects to hold family prayer? 3. Does a member of the church neglect his duty when he neglects the education of his children? Visiting brethren: Elder J. H. Curry, H. B. Chappelle.

SECOND DISTRICT—The union of the 2nd District of the Union Baptist Association will convene with the Baptist Church of Christ at New Arbor Springs on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in August, 1884. Introductory sermon by Elder Geo. M. Lyles; Missionary sermon by Elder J. P. Lee. Queries: 1. Does the responsibility which Ezekiel realized in his day rest upon the present ministry? 2. What did the Saviour design teaching in Matthew 11: 11? 3. What is the duty of our churches towards sister churches that fail to discipline their members for gross immoral conduct? 4. What is church contempt? 5. What prominence should be given our distinctive views, in the Sabbath School and from the pulpit? 6. Should a Christian use tobacco? ESSAY: How can the energies of our denomination be best developed and utilized?—Elder J. M. Land. Visiting brethren: J. H Curry, J. J. Lee, J. M. Robertson.

Third District—The next annual meeting will be held with Unity Church on Friday before the 1st Sabbath in August, 1884. Introductory sermon by Elder H. B. Chappelle; alt., Elder S. Hildreth. Missionary sermon by Elder J. H. Curry; alternate, Elder J. G. Thornton. Queries: 1. Are the churches bound by the action of their delegates? Opened by brother A. C. Ezell. 2. Is it the duty of every Christian father to hold family prayer? Opened by Elder S. Hildreth. 3. Should Christians use tobacco? Opened by Bro. W. G. Robertson. 4. Should Christians use intoxicants as a beverage? Opened by Eld. M. G. Lofton. Essays: 1. Covetousness. Read by brother W. P. Peden. 2. Fourth Commandment. Read by brother W. S. Coleman. Visiting brethren—I. Teer, J. P. Barnett, H. B. Chappelle.

Fourth District—The next annual meeting will convene with the Forest Baptist Church, Friday befor the 3rd Sab. in August, 1884. Introductory sermon by Elder M. G. Lofton; alternate, Elder J. L. Ray. Missionary sermon, Eld. J. C. Foster; alternate, J. G. Thornton. Query: 1st. What obstructs the progress of the churches? Opened by brethren J. M. Smith and N. Cobb. Essay: 1. Prayer-meetings of vital importance to church prosperity. Read by brother H. F. Hill. Query: 2. How to improve the spiritual condition of the churches? Opened by G. W. Edwards and Walter Phillips. Essay 2. How should the finances of the church be conducted? Read by Bro. J. T. Smith. Query 3. Evil effects of intemperance on the cause of Christ. Opened by brethren T. J. Nix and H. Mitchell Essay 3: Evils of popular amusements. Read by Bro. J. P. Barnett. Visiting brethren, J. A. Mitchell, J. H. Curry, C. Richey, M. G. Lofton, J. J. Lee, H. B. Chappelle.

On motion, deferred the report of committee on Temperance till 11 o'clock to-morrow.

On motion, Resolved, That we turn over to the State Board the amount of the fund collected to-day ($61.25), to be distributed as they may think best.

On motion, adjourned till to-morrow morning 9 o'clock. Prayer by Eld. J. A. Mitchell.

Thursday, 9 o'clock A. M.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayers by Elders T. M Barbour and M. G. Lofton.

1. Circular Letter, by Elder J. C. Foster, was read and adopted.

2. Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers reported, and was was very feelingly discussed and adopted:

We believe that this is a subject that deserves the consideration of this body and that it is only necessary to call the attention of the churches to it that they may be enlisted in the support of our brethren in the ministry who have, from age or infirmity, become unable to provide for themselves and families.

We urge the brethren when making their contributions to remember this class that provision may be made for their care, and that all moneys collected for this purpose be forwarded through the State Board, at Marion, Ala, designating, when desired, any person they wish to receive their benefactions.

C. RICHEY, Chm.

3. Report of committee on Nominations; adopted:

The next Introductory Sermon by Elder M. G. Lofton; alter-

nate, J. H. M. Anders. The Missionary Sermon, by Elder J. H. Curry; alternate, Elder J. P. Lee. The next Circular Letter to be written by brother W. G. Robertson; subject—We believe that Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and that none of them shall be lost. W. G. ROBERTSON, Chm.

4. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.

5. Committee on Documents reported; amended and adopted:

Your committee have examined all the letters from the churches and find that since our last session, our beloved and esteemed brethren in the ministry, M. P. Smith and Virgil W. Barnett, have been removed by death; and also our worthy brother, C. T. Fort, a deacon of Enon church. They will be appropriately noticed by another committee. We also find that Spring Hill Church, Lamar county, has liberated brethren J. J. Robertson and J. R. Goodman to preach the Gospel, and also Cross Roads church has licensed H. F. Heritage to the same work. We also notice that brother J. S. Shirley has been ordained to the full work of the Gospel Ministry. We find that McBee Creek church has not been represented for two years, and that Pleasant Grove and Spring Hill (Pickens) are not represented at this session. Many of the churches report but a meager membership, numerically, while their spiritual condition seem to be but little better. We believe this sad condition is entirely due to the want of christian activity in *walk* and *work*. Other churches report gracious seasons of revival with an ingathering of many precious souls. J. J. LEE, Chm.

6. Report of committee on Finance, read and adopted:

We have received from the Churches as follows:

For Minutes	$57 70
For Association	28 10
For State Missions	34 75
For Home Missions	17 80
For Foreign Missions	26 90
For Church, New Orleans, Louisiana	5 60
For Ministerial Education	7 75
Collection on Wednesday	61 25
	$239.85

We have taken in this report no account of funds previously forwarded.

J. M. SMITH, Chm.

7. Report of Com. on Deceased Ministers and Deacons, adopted:

Your committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons have to report the death of two most worthy servants of God—the oldest and the youngest ministers in our Association. The former, Eld. MATTHEW P. SMITH, was a native of Virginia. As early as 1827 he removed to Alabama and settled in Greene county. He was one of the little band that, in February 1833, constituted Beulah church, of which he was pastor about forty-four years. He was also pastor of Bethel, Forest, New Hope and Shiloh churches for a number of years, all of which were prosperous under his care. At least fifteen hundred converts were baptized by him during his ministerial service. His earnestness for the Redeemer's cause will long be remembered by his hearers, and the influence, which

he wielded for good, upon the communities in which he preached, cannot be measured by time. His converts have moved to Texas, Arkansas and to other States, and have formed the nuclei around which other churches have been grthered, and thus "his works do follow him." He was always prompt in his attendance on the meetings of his Association, and when he arose to speak, which was not often, he was listened to with the greatest respect. In his 78th year, having fought a good fight, "he laid his armor by," and strong in the faith of Christ, went "to dwell in peace at home." The latter, brother VIRGIL W. BARNETT, was a native of Greene county, Ala. He was born October 21, 1858; joined Forest church in August of the year 1877, and was licensed to preach Nov. 1879. He entered college in the year 1879, where he remained three years, winning the respect and love, not only of his teachers, but also of his fellow pupils in the college. Brother Barnett was a young preacher, but by his earnestness, good sense, unusual intelligence, and love to God and man he had endeared himself to the hearts of the Union Association, and many there are who, in the language of David, would say, "Very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women." He died at his home surrounded by loving parents, brothers and sisters and by kind, sympathising friends. While we cannot understand why one so *young*, so devoted to the Master's cause, and who bid so fair to be influential in turning many sinners to righteousness, should be removed in the prime of life, yet we bow in humble submission to the will of Him "who doeth all things well."

We regret to report the death also of brother CHARLES T. FORT, a worthy and efficient Deacon of Enon Church. He was born in ——— county, Georgia, June 28th, 1835. While he was an infant, his father moved to Pickens county, Alabama, and was foremost in developing the resources of the county. He made a profession of religion and joined the church in 1856; was made deacon at a meeting of the Association at Enon church in 1874, and died April 22nd, 1883. A benevolent father, a patriotic citizen, a faithful friend, and a zealous member of the Baptist Church has gone to his reward. M. G. LOFTON, Chm.

8. Returned correspondence:

To THE BIGBEE—To convene with the church at Forkland, Ala., Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in September, 1884. J. H. Curry, R. D. Leavell, J. T. Smith, J. G. Thornton, J. C. Hamilton.

To THE TUSKALOOSA—To convene with the Big Creek church, seven miles West of Tuskaloosa, Thursday before the 3rd Sabbath in Sept. 1884. R. H. Foster, W. F. Thompson, J. G. Thornton, H. F. Hill, W. G. Robertson, J. A. Mitchell, J. C. Foster, J. H. Pate, J. H. Robertson, J. P. Barnett, J. L. Ray, J. M. Smith.

To THE COLUMBUS—To convene at Macon, Miss., Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in Sept., 1884. J. P. Lee, J. J. Lee, N. N. Davis, W. G. Berry, H. B. Chappelle.

To THE LEBANON—To convene with the Pine Grove church, Friday before the 1st Sabbath in Sept. 1884. W. G. Robertson, C. Richey, S. Hildreth, H. B. Chappelle.

To THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION—To convene with Pickensville church on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in July, 1884. W. G. Robertson, C. Richey.

To THE BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION—To convene at Tuskaloosa, Ala., Wednesday before the 3rd Sab. in July, 1884. W. G. Robertson, H. F. Hill, C. Richey, J. C. Foster, R. H. Foster, J. G. Thornton, J. M. Smith, J. L. Ray, H. B. Chappelle

On motion, postponed the Report on Temperance till 2 o'clock.

On motion, *Resolved*, That this Association tender the firm of Henry & Gilbert of the WEST ALABAMIAN, their thanks for the neat "Order of Business" gratuitously furnished and many other kind acts heretofore rendered this Association.

On motion, it was Ordered, That the committees on Missions, Sabbath Schools, Education, Temperance and Order of Business be designated as standing committees.

On motion, appointed the same Executive Board for the ensuing year, and the direction of all missionary work be intrusted to them and the Secretary of the State Board.

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to pay brother Wm. G. Robertson the balance due him from the Ministerial Education fund, and if any balance remains to forward it with all other funds to their respective Boards.

On motion, *Ordered*, That the Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum be printed in the minutes of this session.

On motion, amended the 5th Article of the Constitution by striking out the word "white" wherever it occurs in said article.

On motion, the Clerk was instructed to superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes, retain $25 for the same, and the balance of Association fund be added to the Ministerial Education fund.

On motion, The churches were requested to send up in their next letters to the Association, the amounts contributed to the various objects fostered by this body: Report all funds paid during the Associational year, to whom paid and for what purpose, and then the aggregate of contributions can be shown.

On motion, appointed the next session of the Association to be held with the Pleasant Grove church, Lamar county, on Tuesday before the 4th Sabbath in September, 1884.

On motion, adjourned until 2 o'clock, p. m. Prayer by brother J. G. Lowery.

2 O'CLOCK, P. M.—The Association met. Prayer by Elder T. M. Barbour.

1. Called the roll and marked absentees.

2. Committee on Temperance reported; and was ably discussed and adopted:

An immense amount of work has been done during the past year by the friends of Temperance; and a great deal has been done by the friends of the liquor traffic. The forces on both sides are fast ranging themselves for the final struggle. The time is coming, we believe, and during the lifetime of the present generation, too, when the temperance army will sweep the field, when the liquor traffic will be driven from the face of all this broad fair land of ours. Before that result is reached, there will be probably many assaults and counter assaults; many advances and retreats; but finally, in the near future, the Temperance banner will float in glorious triumph over our country.

We repeat, that we do not regard the final issue of the struggle as at all doubtful. But the question which now confronts us, and which wants to see no cowardice or carelessness in our answer, is this: What part must we take in the struggle; what is the proper line of action for us? Your committee beg permission in answer to this question to say, that they believe this Association, as a body of

Christian men who are citizens of the State of Alabama, ought to commit themselves to labor for Constitutional Prohibition as a final aim, and to labor for anything now which may be best in our respective sections and which looks to State and United States constitutional Prohibition.

SARDINE HILDRETH, Chm.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the thanks of this body are hereby tendered to the members and citizens of Grant's Creek church for the great kindness and munificent hospitality with which we have been entertained during the session of this Association.

On motion, adjourned. The parting hand was extended, and prayer was offered by Elder J. H. Curry. Peace and harmony prevailed, and truly has the Scripture been verified in the Forty-eighth Session of the Union Association—"Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

H. C. BHAPPELLE, Clerk. J. C. FOSTER, Moderator.

NOTE.—There was preaching at the Masonic Hall Tuesday night by Elder Jno. H. Curry, and on Wednesday night by Elder J. M. Phillips.

CIRCULAR LETTER;

WRITTEN BY ELDER J. C. FOSTER.

"*We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the influence and operation of the Holy Spirit.*"

By God's elect we understand, God's elect of the human family. Of Christ it is said, by the prophet Isaiah, "Behold my servant, whom I upheld; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my Spirit upon him: He shall bring forth judgment unto the Gentiles." (Is. 42: 1.) (See Matt. also, 12: 14—21.) And in His name shall the Gentiles trust." Christ is here represented as the elect of God, "chosen and set apart from eternity by God the Father to the great work of redemption "and mediation."

Mention is also made of elect angels. Paul to Timothy says, "I charge *thee* before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality." (1 Tim. 5: 21.) The seed of Jacob were also called the elect of God. "I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat: for as the days of a tree *are* the days of my people, and my elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands." (Is. 65: 9 and 22.)

The elect spoken of as the subject of this letter, are those of the human family, or of Adam and his posterity, those who are chosen

of God in Christ to eternal life and salvation out of all the nations of the earth. "Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness: in hope of eternal life, which God that cannot lie promised before the world began." (Titus 1: 1, 2.)

This election then is "an act of God's distinguishing love." "I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee." (Jer. 31: 3.) "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (Jno. 3: 16.) "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." (I. Jno. 3: 1.) "It is of divine sovereignty and has no respect to any goodness in the objects of it." (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth,) it was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy." (Rom. 9: 9, 11, 12, 16.) It is eternal. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will." (Eph. 1. 4 and 5.) "But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." (II. Thess. 2: 13.) "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand. My Father which gave *them* me is greater than all; and none is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." (Jno. 10: 27—29.) It is sure and unchangeable. See Rom. 9: 11.) "The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal. The Lord knoweth them that are his." (II. Tim. 2: 19.) "The righteous *is* in everlasting foundation." (Prov. 10: 25.) "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." (Matt. 7: 24 and 25.) It is personal, consisting of a certain number of persons. "The Lord knoweth them that are his." (II. Tim. 2: 19.) I am the good shepherd, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine." (John 10: 14.)

Having shown who are the elect of God, or God's elect, we now proceed to show that they shall be called by the influence and operation of the Holy Spirit. "The Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. * * * And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he did also predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom

he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified." (Rom. 8: 26, 28–30.) Paul exhorts to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they are called. "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." (Eph. 4: 1.) They are called unto eternal life. "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life whereunto thou art also called." (I. Tim. 6: 12.) "They which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." (Heb. 9: 15.) "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a purchased people; that ye should shew forth the virtues of him who had called you out of darkness into his marvellous light." (I. Pet. 2: 9.) He called us and has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us unto glory and virtue." (II. Peter 1: 3.) In Revelations 17: 14, it is said, "For he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful." This is all through the influence and operation of the Spirit. "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith." (Gal. 5: 5.)

Regenerated.—To be regenerated is to be born again. Christ said to Nicodemus: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." * * He further said, "Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh: and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (John 3: 3, 5 and 6.) To see the kingdom of God requires that we should be born from above, and in order to enter into the kingdom of God we must have a natural birth and a spiritual birth, or be born of water and of the Spirit. "It is the Spirit that quickeneth." (John 6: 63.) That is that makes alive. "The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." (II. Cor. 3: 6.) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." (John 5: 25.) When Peter asked Christ, What shall those have, who have left all and followed thee? "Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye shall also sit upon twelve thrones." (Matt. 19: 28.) "But after that the kindness of the love of God our Saviour toward men appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." (Titus 3: 4 and 5.) From these we learn that the Spirit enlightens the minds of sinners, leads them to see and feel their lost condition without a Saviour; enables them to lay hold of Christ by faith and to rejoice in the salvation of their souls, as regenerated sinners. Thus they are brought from darkness to light, from nature to grace, from a lost to a saved condition. He comforts the hearts of the converted, enables them to walk in that strait and narrow way that leads to eternal glory with Christ in Heaven.

Sanctified.—Sanctification means to make persons holy, who

were impure and defiled by sin previously. "*It is to cleanse a sinner from the pollution and filth of sin, to free him from the power and dominion of sin, and endue him with a principle of holiness: thus God by his spirit sanctifies the elect, or true believers.*" (Cru. Com.) "*But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*" (1. Cor. 6: 11.) Sanctification is different from justification. "Justification *consists in the remission of sins through the imputation of Christ's righteousness;* Sanctification *is the renoration of nature by the Holy Spirit.* Justification is *perfect in this life; so is not* sanctification." (Cru. Con.) Paul says. "Brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, that I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost." (Rom. 15: 15 and 16.) "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren." (Heb. 2: 11.) "By which will we are sanctified through the offering of Jesus Christ once *for all.* For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified." (Heb. 10: 10 and 14.) "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and called: Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied." (Jude, 1 and 2.) "To them that are sanctified by God the Father." To them upon whom the work of sanctification is begun by God the Father—which work will be complete, in Christ Jesus, when death shall separate our souls and bodies and we are made complete in Him. "Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory." "Thanks be to God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." With the apostle we say, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (1. Cor. 15: 54, 57 and 58.)

H. B. CHAPPELLE, IN ACCOUNT WITH UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

DR.

To cash received from Committee on Finance		$239 85
" " " U. E. Allen, $2.50; H. B. Chappelle, Jr. 2.00		4 50
" " " W. O. Kelsey		2 50
		$246.85

CR.

By cash paid State Board (D. I. Purser)	$50 70	
" " T. M. Bailey $10.55, Home Missions 26.80, Foreign 27.90	59 25	
" " 1st Church New Orleans	5 60	
" " Ministerial Education $2.10, do. W. G. Robertson $9.25	11 35	
" " State Missions	37 25	
" " For printing Minutes	57 70	
By cash retained as Clerk	25 00	
		$246.85

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who, on producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of "The Union Baptist Association:" which shall have the privilege of engaging in benevolent operations, for the purpose of advancing the Redeemer's Kingdom, and the furtherance of Christ's cause on earth—in this the churches and individual members are left free; and the giving or withholding shall be no bar to fellowship.

3. The Association shall usurp no authority over the churches in our union, nor infringe any of their internal rights; but shall merely be considered an advisory council, in all matters relating to their internal concerns; nevertheless, it becomes necessary, in some cases, to have a uniform rule of procedure, viz.: If one church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction: if she fail of success, she shall call in the aid of two or more churches in our union, to assist in laboring for satisfaction, and if final satisfaction, in the opinion of the helps thus called, be not obtained, the aggrieved may bring the case before the Association, which shall be taken up and decided upon according to its merits. If a serious difference should arise in an individual church, which upon due labor, cannot be reconciled, she shall call in aid from two or more churches, to assist in the work, and if a reconciliation be not effected, the helps so called, or the church may bring the case before the Association, to be acted upon according to its merits; but the Association shall take no notice of any case of the above kind, unless a due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued according to the economy of the church discipline as found in the Scriptures of the New Testament.

4. The Association shall have power to exclude any church from her union who shall violate the Constitution, or shall depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

5. Each church in our union shall send to every annual session of the Association, written communications, specifying the names of their delegates, their number in fellowship, the number of males, females, the number baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excommunicated, restored, or deceased since the last session, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

6. Every church in the union shall be entitled to three delegates. Should any church fail to represent herself she shall state her reasons in her next letter to the Association.

7. New churches and churches dismissed from other Associations, may be admitted into our union, by delegates bearing petitionary letters. If upon due examination they be found orderly and orthodox, the moderator shall manifest their reception by giving the delegates the right hand of christian fellowship.

8. The Association when convened, shall be governed by regular and proper rules of decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend, according to her own views.

9. At every meeting of the Association, a Moderator shall be appointed by, and from, the delegates present, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A Clerk shall also be appointed in like manner, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings. The clerk shall be treasurer, ex-officio, of this union.

10. The Association shall furnish the churches of our union with minutes of every session.

11. Every query sent by a particular church, must be included in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile it, but failed. In such a case the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of a majority shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes.

12. Queries which immediately concern the union, or state of the churches at large, sent by a particular church, or introduced by a proper motion, shall be taken up and decided as soon as practicable.

13. Any church in our union, having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister churches to officiate in the work; all presbyteries, in the ordaining of ministers or deacons, and in the constituting of churches, shall be governed by the Articles of Faith adopted by this Association.

14. The Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches; all monies thus contributed, shall be transmitted from the churches, by their delegates and paid over to the committe on finance; which committee shall be annually appointed, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge all monies sent to the Association, dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make a fair and circumstantial report.

15. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep a regular file of the printed minutes of every session.

16. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all the business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

17. This Association shall correspond with such other Associations as may be agreed on while in session.

18. The Association shall, in all cases, (except to amend the Constitution,) be governed by a majority of the members present.

19. The minutes of the Association shall be read, and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the session rises.

20. The Association shall, at each session, appoint one of her members to preach an introductory sermon at her next session: also, one or more to preach upon subjects of Benevolence, as she may think proper; and one to prepare a Circular Letter.

21. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any session of the Association when two-thirds of her members present shall deem it necessary.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in only one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.—*Deut.* iv, 39; 1 *Cor.* viii, 6; and 1 *John* v, 7.

2. We believe that the Scriptures, comprising the Old and New Testaments, are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.—2 *Tim.* iii, 16; *Rom.* xv, 4; and iii, 2.

3. We believe that Adam, by sin, fell from the state of purity in which he was created, that all his posterity are degenerate, and that all human nature is corrupt and depraved.—*Rom.* iii, 12; *Gen.* i, 26–28; iii, 6–8.

4. We believe that man is utterly unable, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.—*Heb.* ix, 22–23; 1 *Peter* ii, 24; and iii, 18.

5. We believe in the doctrine of Election, and that God chose his people in Christ, before the world began—*Eph.* i, 3–5; *Titus* i, 1 and 2.

6. We believe in the Covenant of Redemption, and Salvation by Grace, entered into by the Sacred Three, in behalf of the elect, on whom grace and glory were settled forever, in Christ, their covenant head.—*Psalms,* lxxxix, 2–4; and xxvii, 37; *Eph.* i, 3–5; 2 *Tim.* i, 9.

7. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, by the imputed righteousness of Christ only, and that they receive pardon and reconciliation through him.—*Rom.* iii, 22–26.

8. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated, and sanctified by the influence and operation of the Holy Spirit.—1 *Peter* i, 2; *Mal.* 3, 17.

9. We believe that Saints shall be preserved in Grace, and that none of them shall be lost.—*John* x, 27–29; *Romans* viii, 31–39; 2 *Tim.* i, 9.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and the general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous, and punishment of the wicked, will be eternal.—*Job* xix, 25–27; *John* v, 28–29; *Matt.* xxv, 31, 34–41–46.

11. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are Ordinances of Jesus Christ; that true believers are the only fit subjects of Baptism; that immersion of the subject in water is the Apostolic mode; and that none but regularly Baptized members have a right to commune at the Lord's table.—*Matt.* iii, 6–16; *Mark* i 9: xvi, 16; *John* iv, 1–2; *Acts* ii, 38–41; viii, 12 xviii, 8; *Luke* xxii, 17–20; *John* xiii, 2–41.

12. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the Ordinaces of the Gospel, unless he has been regularly baptized, called and come under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery.—*Tim.* ii, 6-7; v, 21–22- *Titus* i, 5; *Acts,* xiii, 2–3.

RULES OF DECORUM.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. After reading of the letters from the different churches of this Union, a Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

3. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretional right to call to order at any time.

4. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

5. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and address the Moderator for permission to speak, and he, when thus addressed, shall signify his assent by naming the member, or otherwise.

6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it; if there are two or more motions before the Association on the same subject, at the same time, the first motion shall be first in order.

7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on, or withdrawn, before another shall be offered.

8. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject; the members in the affirmative shall signify the same by saying "aye," and those in the negative by saying "no," except in cases which cannot thus be satisfactorily determined; in such case they shall be tested by rising to their feet. The Moderator to pronounce the decision before the standers resume their seats.

9. No member shall depart from the services of the Association without leave.

10. No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject, without leave, nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until the debates are gone through with.

11. The appellation of "brother" shall be used in the Association by the members in their address, one to another.

12. The names of members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

13. No member shall be tolerated in any practice that tends to interrupt the speaking.

14. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another member to his seat during the time, but he shall not vote on any question, unless the Association be equally divided.

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION.

OF THE

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

OF THE

UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH

BEULAH CHURCH, GREENE COUNTY, ALA.,

July 27th and 28th, 1883.

The next session will be held with Pickensville Church, commencing on Friday before the 4th Sabbath in July, 1884.

CARROLLTON:

PRINTED AT THE WEST ALABAMIAN JOB OFFICE,

BY HENRY & GILBERT.

1883.

UNION BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL STATISTICS.

SCHOOLS.	Teachers	Schools.	TOTAL.	SUPERINTENDENTS	POST OFFICES.
Carrollton	6	62	68	W. G. Robertson.	Carrollton, Pickens Co., Ala
Liberty	1	19	20	John W. Harris..	Reform, " " "
Unity	2	24	26	W. P. Peden.....	Olney, " " "
Beulah	5	41	46	S. S. Thornton ...	Union, Greene county, "
Oak Ridge	1	22	23	L. P. Baker.....	Bethany, Pickens county, Ala
Mt. Zion	2	23	25	L. P. Baker.....	" " " "
Zion	4	20	24	John P. Hatter...	Raleigh, " " "
Pickensville	5	40	45	John J. Ball.....	Pickensville, Pickens Co., "
Enon	4	59	63	Clark Richey.....	" " " "
Hebron	3	47	50	John A. Pearson.	Carrollton, " " "
Bethel	4	30	34	H. S. Thornton...	Knoxville, Greene " "
Prairie	2	14	16	Calvin Upchurch.	West Greene, " " "
Arbor Spring	4	56	60	D. O. Baird.....	Coalfire, Pickens County, Ala
Eureka (Big C'k and Cross Roads)	3	51	54	U. E. Allen.....	Carrollton, Pickens " "
Sylvan	5	32	37	Robert H. Foster.	Sylvan, Tuskaloosa " "
Manly Academy	6	28	34	H. F. Hill.....	Foster's, " " "
New Hope	4	34	38	J. P. Barnett.....	Romulus, " " "
Mt. Pleasant	2	30	32	W. J. Beaty.....	Gordo, Pickens " "
Spring Hill	2	18	20	Jas. M. Land.....	Pickensville, Pickens Co., "
Fellowship	1	35	36	Benj. Pearson....	Reform, " " "
Forest	3	26	29	Iredell Teer.....	Olney, " " "
Ebenezer, est	2	20	22	Thos. H. Noland.	Carrollton, " " "
Antioch, estimate	3	25	28	Wm. H. Bridges.	" " " "
Shiloh	2	23	25	Gill Thomas.....	Knoxville, Greene " "
Union Hill	4	47	51	E. J. Daffin.....	Beard's Pickens County, Ala.
	80	826	906		

PROCEEDINGS.

The Convention met with the Beulah Baptist Church on Friday, July 27th, 1883. On account of the death of our beloved brother, Elder V. W. Barnett, the Convention Sermon was preached by Elder M. G. Lofton, at 11 a. m., Friday.

FRIDAY, 2 P. M.—The President called the Convention to order, and subsequent proceedings had, according to published program.

Letters from the Sunday-schools were read, and names of delegates enrolled. Reports were received from 17 schools. There are 8 schools co-operating with the Convention not reported. From the reports and estimates there are 950 teachers and scholars attending the schools within our bounds.

The Convention was organized by the re-election of Elder S. Hildreth, President, and W. G. Robertson, Secretary.

The usual committees were appointed. Committee on Order of Business—L. M. Stone, J. H. Curry and W. G. Robertson.

Query No. 1—What constitutes an efficient Sabbath-school?—was freely discussed and answered as follows: One properly organized under an efficient corps of teachers, aided by the members of the church, and working under the auspices of the church.

SATURDAY, 8:30 A. M.—Devotional exercises, conducted by the President.

The essay on Family Government, by Elder M. G. Lofton, was read and elicited a lively discussion, which was participated in by several brethren.

Query No. 5. Does the fact that a family which regularly attends Sabbath-school release the parents from the duty of teaching their children at home on the Sabbath day?—was warmly discussed, profitably to all present, and answered, It does not.

Query No. 2. What is necessary to qualify one for teaching in the Sunday-school?—was taken up, and after discussion by various brethren, in view of the importance of the subject, was laid on the table for future reference.

The essay—Duty of parents to teach the precepts of the Bible to their children—was read by Clark Richey, and adopted.

The report of the Secretary and Treasurer was read and adopted. The report shows that aid has been granted to 16 schools, amounting to $38 21; that the total receipts including $20 72 on hand at last report, was $70 72, and disbursements $41 06, leaving a balance of $29 66 on hand.

The report further shows that the Sunday-school cause within our bounds is more prosperous, and, what is better, has taken a deeper and more permanent hold upon our people than ever before in the history of the Convention, and that we have no longer to urge so much the importance of Sunday-schools. But the great question is: How shall we make them more efficient in sowing the seed of Divine truth and winning souls to Christ?

The Secretary was continued as Superintendent of the work, and was authorized to enlarge our operations as much as in his judgment was thought best and the means in his hands would justify. The churches and schools were entreated to enlarge their

contributions that the work may be more vigorously pushed throughout our bounds.

1:30 P. M.—Devotional exercises conducted by the President.

Brother Robert H. Foster appointed to write an essay on Influence of Sunday-schools on the morals of the country, being absent, Dr. Parker, by request, gave the Convention his views on that subject.

Query No. 4. What should be the great object of Sunday-school work?—was discussed with much animation, and pleasure to the Convention, and was answered as follows: To lead sinners to Christ and build up believers in the faith of the Gospel.

The Committee on Nominations reported, which was adopted: Next Introductory Sermon by Elder J. G. Thornton; alternate, Elder J. P. Lee. Missionary sermon, Elder J. H. Curry; alternate, Elder M. G. Lofton.

The committee on Queries and Essays made report, as follows:

Queries: 1. How shall we make the Sunday-school more efficient in winning souls to Christ? Opened by W. P. Peden.

2. Can a church neglect the Sunday-school work without violating the teachings of the Bible? Opened by John J. Ball.

3. What is the relation and duty of members of the churches to the present Temperance and Prohibition movement in this country? Opened by M. G. Lofton.

4. How can we make the Sunday-school interesting to adults? Opened by U. E. Allen.

Essay: 1. The importance of teaching the distinctive doctrines of our denomination to our children. By W. G. Robertson.

2. The Evils of Fashion. By Mrs. Sue E. Baker.

Query No. 3. By what means may we induce our young men to take an interest in Sabbath-schools?—was opened by Eld. J. E. White in a speech characteristic of his learning and style. The general expression was a wish that every young man within our bounds had been present. Considering the importance of the question it was continued to the next session of the convention.

The committee on Temperance made report, which, after striking out, 'We do not believe that this can be done by legislative enactment,' following these words, We would gladly hail the time when the foul fiend Intemperance should be banished from our land, was adopted.

The report urges the importance of educating the people on the question of Temperance, so that God will speed the day when the curse of the liquor traffic and consequent intemperance and moral degradation shall be driven from our land.

The Committee on Literature leaves it to the schools to use such lesson-helps as they may choose, but only such as uncompromisingly teach the word of God in its purity, having regard also to cheapness, where there is no sacrifice of principle and the tenets of our denomination are clearly set forth.

The committee on Finance made report, which was adopted. The amount sent up was $14.25, amount collected on Sabbath $11, and pledges $23.

The next session of the Convention will be held with the Baptist

Church at Pickensville, commencing Friday before the 4th Sabbath in July, 1884.

On motion, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, our Heavenly Father has called home our dear brother, VIRGIL W. BARNETT, resolved:

1. That we have lost a faithful co-worker, a kind an affectionate brother, and a young minister who promised fair to accomplish great good.

2. That while we tender to the bereaved family, and to the Union Association, our heartfelt sympathies, we rejoice to know that their loss is his eternal gain.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered Messrs. HENRY & GILBERT, for printing the programme of this meeting, and for circulars and other printing for the use of the Convention, gratuitously.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the thanks of the Convention be tendered the Beulah Baptist Church, and other friends in the community, for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained the delegates and visitors in attendance.

After singing and giving the parting hand, prayer was offered by Elder John C. Foster, and then the Convention adjourned.

W. G. ROBERTSON, Sec'y. S. HILDRETH, President.

STATISTICS OF THE UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Let	Dis. by Let'r	Restored.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Males.	Females.	Total Members.	Minutes.	Association.	State Mis'ns	Home Missions.	Foreign Mis.	Ministerial Education.	Total Contribut'ns	MEETINGS.	PASTORS.	CHURCH CLERKS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.
Bethlehem	16	7	..	2	..	1	19	23	42	$ 2 00	.....	5 45	.....	.....	.....	7 45	3	D. O. Baird.	J. Bradley, Coalfire, Ala.
Liberty	6	3	2	..	..	..	21	57	78	2 00	75	4 65	.....	.....	.....	7 40	2	J. A. Mitchell.	J. W. Harris, Reform, Ala.
Mt. Pleasant	5	..	8	2	5	..	21	49	70	2 00	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 20	1	J. A. Mitchell.	W. B. Hicks, Byars, "
Fellowship	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	12	20	1 50	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	G. M. Lyles.	J. B. Hodo, Gordo, "
Corinth	..	2	8	..	7	..	28	56	84	2 20	50	10 35	.....	2 00	.....	15 05	2	J. A. Mitchel.	J. A. Mitchel, Sipsey T'p'k
Flat Woods	..	10	..	..	..	..	13	19	32	1 00	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50	3	J. S. Shirley.	J. M. Parker, Raleigh, Ala
Spring Hill, L	..	4	4	..	4	1	27	33	60	2 00	75	8 00	.....	.....	.....	10 75	2	J. S. Wooton.	J. D. Walker, Gentry, "
PleasantGrove	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	39	56	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	J. S. Wooton.	W. Vail, Luxapalila, "
McBee Creek	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	.....	.....
Arbor Spring	12	4	..	2	1	3	26	33	59	2 00	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 50	2	G. M. Lyles.	M. P. Carpenter, Reform.
South Carolina	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	.....	.....
Mineral Spring	4	2	1	..	5	..	20	34	54	2 00	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	J. P. Lee.	E. B. Foster, Beard's, Ala.
Oak Ridge	..	2	..	..	..	..	12	21	33	1 25	1 25	5 00	.....	.....	2 75	10 25	1	M. G. Lofton.	N. N. Davis, Lineburg, Ala
Spring Hill, P	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	20	31	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	J. P. Lee.	J. H. Stinson, Pickensville
Hebron	1	2	1	1	..	..	14	37	51	2 00	1 00	2 50	.....	.....	.....	5 50	3	G. M. Lyles.	J. A. Pearson, Carrollton.
Big Creek	1	1	2	..	..	2	30	67	97	2 50	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 50	2	H. B. Chappelle	I. M. Noland, Carrollton.
Cross Roads	4	..	..	..	..	..	11	20	31	1 50	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00	1	James M. Land.	Jo. M. Land, Pickensville.
Pickensville	2	..	4	..	1	3	14	24	38	2 00	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 00	1	J. H. Curry.	M. B. Curry, "
Carrollton	5	4	2	..	..	1	23	32	55	2 50	2 00	15 00	20 00	12 45	.....	51 95	2	J. H. Curry.	L. M. Stone, Carollton, Ala
Ebenezer	..	..	..	..	..	2	11	22	33	1 50	1 00	.....	.....	5 20	.....	7 70	4	G. M. Lyles.	T. H. Noland, " "
Antioch	..	..	3	..	..	..	7	10	17	1 00	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50	3	H. B. Chappelle	Wm. Bridges, " "
Temple Hill	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	15	21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	.....	F. M. Walker, " "
Unity	8	1	3	..	1	..	30	56	86	3 00	1 15	17 80	.....	.....	.....	21 95	1	M. G. Lofton.	G. H. Phillips, Olney, Ala.
Enon	3	1	1	..	..	1	19	40	59	1 50	1 50	13 85	7 00	7 00	5 00	41 45	3	J. H. Curry.	J. D. Stapp, Garden, "
Mt. Zion	2	..	6	..	..	..	25	29	54	1 75	50	3 20	1 00	.....	.....	6 45	3	M. G. Lofton.	L. P. Baker, Bethany, "
Prairie	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	22	41	1 00	2 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 00	3	J. E. White.	M. B. Taylor, Pleas. Ridge
Forest	..	1	2	..	1	1	36	61	97	3 00	1 00	4 25	.....	1 95	.....	9 20	3	J. A. Mitchell.	J. Upchurch, Olney, Ala.
Shiloh	..	2	..	..	1	..	9	19	28	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	2	J. L. Ray.	A. P. Smith, Pleas. Grove.
Chalcedony	1	2	3	..	1	..	31	35	66	2 50	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 00	1	J. H. M. Anders	J. R. Strickland, Romulus.
Beulah	..	..	..	..	..	4	28	69	97	3 00	2 00	5 00	5 00	7 95	.....	35 00	3	J. E. White.	E. H. Lamb, Union, Ala.
Bethel	5	7	..	..	..	1	59	70	129	3 00	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 00	1	W. A. Bishop.	J. W. Phillips, Hickman.
New Hope	3	3	2	..	..	2	39	53	92	2 00	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	28 00	4	J. C. Foster.	W. H. Ball, Romulus, Ala.
Zion	..	1	13	2	1	2	10	22	32	1 00	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 50	2	J. H. M. Anders	J. P. Hatter, Raleigh, "
Grant's Creek	1	..	6	..	4	3	42	74	116	3 00	2 00	26 75	17 25	24 45	11 50	92 95	1	J. C. Foster.	R. H. Foster, Sylvan, Ala.
	79	59	71	9	31	27	636	1173	1859	56.70	27.60	121.80	50.25	61.00	19.25	380.75			

NAMES OF BAPTIST MINISTERS